

HOUSE RESOLUTION 217

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor the singular career and musical virtuosity of Ace Cannon, "The Godfather of Sax".

WHEREAS, the art of creating music has long been an important part of humanity, serving as a voice for those traits that make us truly human, preserving our history, and forging bridges between diverse cultures; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to honor those musicians whose artistry has garnered them thousands of accolades and millions of fans; and

WHEREAS, a musician whose records have consistently appeared on *Billboard's* and *Cash Box's* charts, saxophone virtuoso Ace Cannon is renowned worldwide for his classically executed, quality musicianship; and

WHEREAS, dubbed "the greatest saxophone player who ever lived" by the legendary Sam Phillips, Ace Cannon started his career in Memphis, Tennessee, recording on many of the 1950's hits for Mr. Phillips's Sun Records; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 he began his illustrious tenure with the popular instrumental group, The Bill Black Combo, traveling on their concert dates and playing lead saxophone on the group's original recordings; and

WHEREAS, with The Bill Black Combo, Mr. Cannon appeared on the most prominent television shows of that era, including *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Merv Griffin Show*, and Dick Clark's *American Bandstand*; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Ace Cannon recorded the instrumental smash *Tuff*, he has since recorded 67 albums and 46 singles, earning a Grammy nomination for his inspiring recording of *Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain*; and

WHEREAS, he has also sold millions of albums via television, including *Golden Classics*, *The Entertainer*, and a collaborative effort with celebrated trumpeter, Al Hirt, of country classics that is one of the biggest selling television albums of all time; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Ace Cannon performed on *The Class of '55* album which brought together Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, and Roy Orbison for a historic reunion of Sun artists; and

WHEREAS, this reunion resulted in Mr. Cannon and Carl Perkins performing together for the entire year of 1986, playing show dates all over the U.S., a tour of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, and the World's Fair in Vancouver, British Columbia.; and

WHEREAS, the legendary Ace Cannon has made numerous appearances on *Nashville Now*, *New Country*, *Charlie Daniel's Jam*, and *Fan Fair* and has traveled far and wide to appear at concerts, clubs, fairs, and major festivals; in 1986, he was asked by Dick Clark to join the All Star Band for the Country Music Academy television special; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon is recognized as a musical genius even as far away as the Caribbean, where more than 23,000 people attended two sold-out shows at The Spectakula Forum and Queen's Park in tiny Port of Spain, Trinidad; overall, he has performed more than a dozen tours in the Caribbean since 1975; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon has built a wide and varied repertoire that features everything from rock and roll to country standards to pop, and he is also no stranger to jazz and blues, which makes his music appeal to audiences of all ages and preferences; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990's, Ace Cannon recorded two immensely popular albums for WIRL Records, entitled *Music For Lovers* and *Sweet Dreams*, respectively; during that decade, he also overdubbed his terrific horn on some record tracks for the late great Ivory Joe Hunter.; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Scotty Moore and D. J. Fontana, two members of Elvis Presley's original band, recorded an album entitled *All The Kings Men*, which featured songs by various artists, including Keith Richards, Ron Wood, Jeff Beck, Steve Earle, Ronnie McDowell, and The Bill Black Combo. From among these eleven songs performed by a veritable *Who's Who in*

Popular Music, The Bill Black Combo number, featuring Ace Cannon, was nominated for a Grammy Award; and

WHEREAS, during the past ten years, Ace Cannon has recorded and co-produced five albums for RMD Music, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon has deservedly been inducted into the Smithsonian Rock and Soul Hall of Fame, the International Rockabilly Hall of Fame, and the Memphis Music Hall of Fame; he has also been nominated for induction into the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, artists of Mr. Cannon's caliber do not often walk among us, and this Body wishes to pay tribute to this extraordinary musician, entertainer, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we herby honor the inimitable Ace Cannon, "The Godfather of Sax," upon a long and varied career that is truly unparalleled in artistry and achievement. We commend this gifted saxophonist for continuing to make great music and entertain his legion of loyal fans and wish him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.